

SUCCESS STORIES – EMAC EDUCATION PAYS OFF (third article in series of four).

The following are a few examples how States successfully integrate EMAC into their emergency management operational planning.

North Carolina – Using EMAC to Improve Medical Care.

As a partner in the state's emergency management system, the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services played a critical role in delivering life-saving care to patients in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. It set up a fully functioning field hospital with equipment, medicine and beds for 50 sick and injured people. Rotating teams of 500 medical professionals that included doctors, nurses, pharmacists, radiologists and others were on hand, working around the clock. Over an eight-week period, 8,000 patients were seen and 15,000 prescriptions written.

Every medical resource was deployed through EMAC. North Carolina represents one of the most advanced states in its ability to deploy medical assets under the compact. Its healthcare network that facilitated the Mississippi field-hospital operation is also one of the most developed in the country. The system was designed so that North Carolina citizens would be able to access medical care before, during and after any kind of disaster. This sophisticated medical structure has trained and exercised extensively, incorporating EMAC into all processes and procedures.

Illinois - Statewide Education Makes the Difference.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the state of Illinois deployed almost 3,000 people through EMAC. This involvement was in contrast to 2004 when it deployed only 11 people following four hurricanes that hit the U.S. in a six-week period. What made the difference? -- educating local and state responders about the compact and creating a formal EMAC interface with responders such as firefighters and law enforcement. In the past three years, Illinois Emergency Management Agency educated thousands about the compact by holding sessions for local emergency managers. To better prepare 100 local personnel for deployment, state emergency management used the EMAC Field Course and taught them about A-Team (Advance Team) member responsibilities and functions. The Illinois Emergency Medical Response Team, a volunteer organization for emergency medical professionals who assist in mass casualty incidents, was also educated about the EMAC process.

In addition, the state emergency management officials established a partnership with key groups such as the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System which gives access to more than 500 Illinois fire departments, 25,000 firefighters, 600 ambulances and hundreds of other personnel and equipment. Another partnership was made with the Illinois Law Enforcement Alert System, which provides entry into the law enforcement community.

Virginia – Statewide Mutual Aid and More Training.

After the 2005 hurricane season, the Commonwealth of Virginia used the EMAC intrastate model agreement to rewrite its statewide mutual aid system. The new agreement has been signed by all 139 localities. It eliminates the need for intergovernmental agreements and allows for improved communication between local jurisdictions. The state of Virginia has also conducted extensive training with EMAC classes held throughout Virginia. By July 2007, there were nearly 200 A-Team members. The A-Team members are important because the individuals lead and coordinate the mutual aid response. They also do cost estimates, get requested resources to the right place and track filled requests that are en route. In addition, Virginia is developing pre-scripted missions. These are groups of assets that are requested frequently and have pre-identified equipment and personnel. Once defined, they can be called up for an EMAC deployment and ready to go on short notice. For details on the EMAC process, refer to the EMAC Web Site at www.emacweb.org.

For more information on the NC EMAC process, contact Carolyn Freitag at (919) 7159213 or Cfreitag@ncem.org.

This article is the third release in a series for four on EMAC. The information was provided by Beverly Bell, NEMA Senior Policy Analyst. The first article titled "The Emergency Management Assistance Compact – An Introduction" can be found in the March 2008 MEMO and the second article titled "Making The Most of EMAC" can be found in the May 2008 MEMO.



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2008 Hurricane Season Forecast

Dr. William Gray of Colorado State University has released his 2008 hurricane season forecast. Dr. Gray foresees a well above-average Atlantic basin tropical cyclone season in 2008. He predicts 15 name storms, 8 hurricanes, 4 of which will be intense hurricanes. Dr. Gray predicts there is a 45% chance of a major hurricane (category 3, 4, 5) making landfall on the U.S. East Coast. The 2008 Hurricane season runs June 1st to November 30th. To view the official report, visit <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/2008/april2008/apr2008.pdf>

Wilmington Television Stations To Test Digital Programming Switch Early.

On September 8th, Wilmington, NC area television stations will switch to digital broadcasting as part of a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) market test. The Wilmington switch is earlier than the Federal deadline of February 17, 2009. The FCC will test and observe the test to see how audiences are affected. All television stations in the area will convert to digital except for WUNJ-TV. WUNJ-TV will continue to broadcast in both digital and analog. The FCC wants to observe how the digital switch affects households especially the households without cable and satellite. It is estimated that 7% of the Wilmington viewing audience do not have cable or satellite. Wilmington is one among several other markets that are switching earlier than the required deadline.

DHS Awards \$9,295,042 to Secure North Carolina's Critical Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced May 16, 2008 more than \$9.2 million in grant awards to North Carolina as part of its Infrastructure Protection Activities (IPA) grant program. IPA grants reinforce the department's approach to risk-based funding and commitment to regional planning and security coordination.

Port Security Grant Program: \$7,473,505

The Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) supports sustainable, risk-based efforts to enhance access control and credentialing, protect against an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and other non-conventional attacks, and conduct exercises for disaster-response scenarios. The Ports at Morehead City and Wilmington (**\$7,449,555** combined award based on U.S. DHS risk methodology for ports) are new to Group II this year, and will be developing Port Wide Risk Management/Mitigation Plans (in addition to the aforementioned activities) to meet new federal requirements. The NC DOT Ferry Division competed against 18 other Ferry Systems and received 100% of their request, for a total award of **\$23,950**. The Ferry Division will use the funding to enhance its underwater detection capabilities.

Transit Security Grant Program: \$1,224,537

The Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) supports sustainable, risk-based efforts in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) regions to protect critical transit infrastructure, particularly against explosives and non-conventional threats that could cause major disruption to commerce and significant loss of life. The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) competed against 44 other systems nationwide for \$16,900,000 in total funding, and received 97% of their request, for a total award of **\$1,224,537**.

Buffer Zone Protection Program: \$597,000

The Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) provides grant funding for security and risk-management capabilities at state and local levels to bolster pre-designated Tier I and Tier II critical infrastructure sites. These include chemical facilities, financial institutions, nuclear and electric power plants, dams, stadiums, and other high-risk/high-consequence facilities. The award amount is predetermined by U.S. DHS based on their risk methodology for critical infrastructure.

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2- Day Statewide Hurricane Exercise Conducted

On May 20 & 21st, counties, NCEM, and the NC State Emergency Response Team (SERT) conducted a 2-day statewide hurricane exercise to test plans and procedures. The exercise simulated two major events happening at the same time. The first event was massive flooding in Western North Carolina. The second event was a category 4 hurricane affecting numerous states along its path. Participants operated a full blown Emergency Operations Center activation with teams running 12 hour shifts. FEMA officials and exercise controllers observed and evaluated the exercise by visiting each breakout room and asking questions related to standard operation guidelines. The exercise after-action report



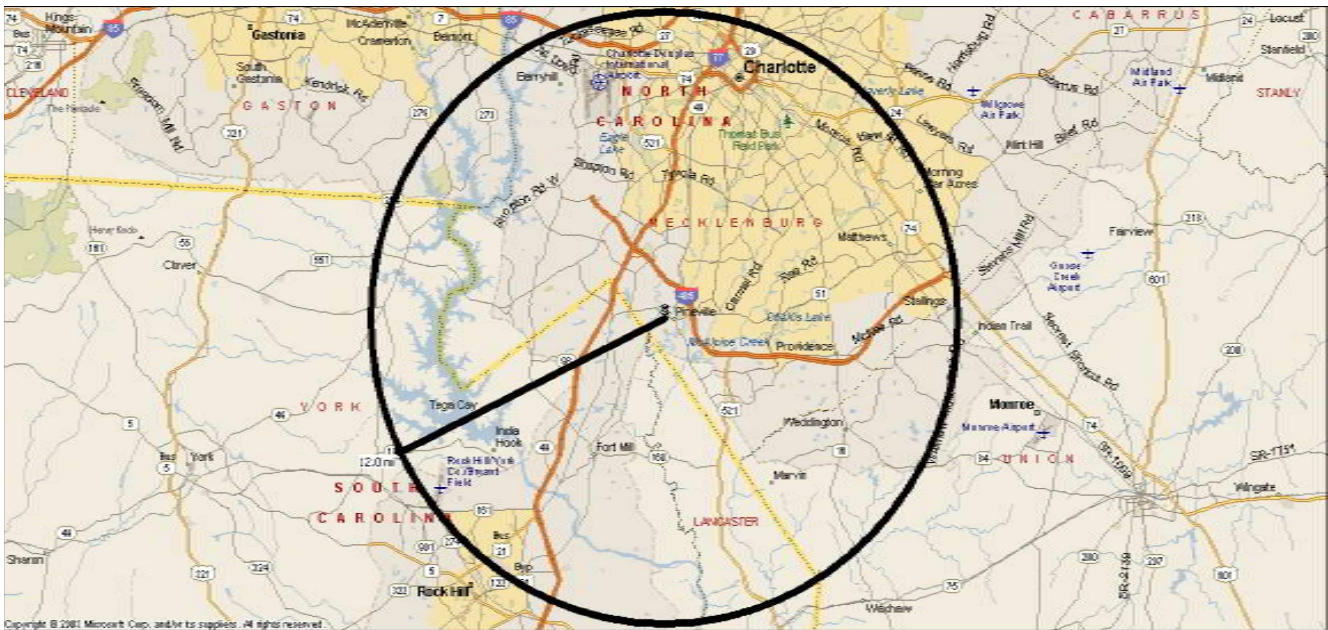
and results from FEMA and the exercise controllers will be available by mid-July and released during a special meeting. For more information, contact Carolyn Freitag at (919) 715-9213 or Cfreitag@ncem.org.

VIPER Site Activations

Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) is a way for first responders and public safety officials to communicate with one another on a single radio system. When in place, interoperable communications will benefit all public safety agencies when dealing with daily emergency calls and large scale disasters. For more information on VIPER, contact Captain Alan Melvin, NC State Highway Patrol at (919) 662-4440 or amelvin@ncshp.org

The following VIPER sites have been established and are now operational:

<u>Location (City/County)</u>	<u>Date Activated</u>	<u>VIPER Site Made Possible Through</u>
Pineville/Mecklenburg	5/23/08	Town of Pineville



Note: map is not exact and are to be used as general reference.

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Special Mentioning-

Robert "Bob" Mann leaves NCEM for Auburn University.

NCEM Human Services' Assistant Manager Robert Mann left NCEM to join Auburn University in Alabama. While with NCEM, Bob's most noted projects included the Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailer (CAMET) program and Coastal Regional Evacuation Sheltering (CRES) guide. At Auburn University, Bob will work to build the school's emergency management program. Bob's last day was May 30, 2008.



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